



Tampa Bay has been one of the areas hardest hit by our current recession. While this has been a difficult time, it has also rallied our leadership around the importance of diversifying our regional economy to make it not only productive but also inclusive and sustainable. Our legislative agenda illustrates this focus and the commitment our business leaders have to enact real policy changes that will have a quick and direct impact on our region, while continuing to offer support for the economic engines that drive our regional economy.

Focus I: Jobs!

Prioritize policy changes that directly impact Jobs

- Support competitiveness of medical device manufactures (and manufacturers of medical device components) by eliminating duplication of efforts and potentially conflicting requirements by exempting these organizations from state permitting and fees correctly regulated by the U.S. FDA
- Support legislation establishing the University of South Florida Doctor of Pharmacy degree program.
- Secure equitable allocation of Workforce Education funds to ensure resources are directed to areas with the greatest need and proven ability to prepare Florida's students to enter the workforce quickly.

Focus II: Economic Engines,

Continue to support and develop Tampa Bay's economic engines

- Support the region's education and research institutions' efforts to secure funding for initial capital improvements and program expansion including USF Polytechnic and Byrd Alzheimer's Institute.
- Provide equitable funding for USF's medical school to ensure USF medical students receive the same level of funding as our state's newer medical schools.
- Sustain efforts to implement approved transit plans, specifically the state's application for \$2.5 billion in High Speed Rail funds and county efforts to implement the TBARTA Master Plan starting with Hillsborough in 2010.
- Support Tampa Bay's regional health care providers in their efforts to maintain Medicaid reimbursement rates and eligibility categories.

Focus III: Future Economy,

Develop long term policy shifts to support our future economy

- Direct a statewide study into funding options for multi-modal transportation including the potential to create opportunities for local municipalities to invest in rail by opening up the Charter County Surtax to all counties who are part of a regional transportation authority.
- Support Enterprise Florida's agenda to ensure economic development entities continue to have the resources needed to attract major employers to Florida.